



# Creating Success

*2008 President's Report*

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## Mission Statement

Edgecombe Community College is dedicated to fulfilling the educational, training, and cultural needs of the community.

For additional information about Edgecombe Community College, visit us on the Web at [www.edgecombe.edu](http://www.edgecombe.edu).

## Edgecombe Community College Board of Trustees

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## Open Door Policy

The only valid philosophy for North Carolina is the philosophy of total education, a belief in the incomparable worth of all human beings, whose claims upon the state are equal before the law and equal before the bar of public opinion; whose talents (however great or however limited or however different from the traditional), the State needs and must develop to the fullest possible degree. That is why the doors to the institutions in North Carolina's System of Community Colleges must never be closed to anyone of suitable age who can learn what they teach. We must take the people where they are and carry them as far as they can go within the assigned function of the system. If they cannot read, then we will simply teach them to read and make them proud of their achievement. If they did not finish high school but have a mind to do it, then we will offer them a high school education at a time and in a place convenient to them and at a price within their reach. If their talent is technical or vocational, then we will simply offer them instruction, whatever the field, however complex or however simple, that will provide them with the knowledge and the skill they can sell in the marketplaces of our State, and thereby contribute to its scientific and industrial growth. If their needs are in the great tradition of liberal education, then we will simply provide them the instruction, extending through two years of standard college work, which will enable them to go on to the University or to senior college and on into life in numbers unheard of before in North Carolina. If their needs are for cultural advancement, intellectual growth or civic understanding, then we will simply make available to them the wisdom of the ages and the enlightenment of our times and help them to maturity.

– W.D. Herring, 1964

# A Message

*from the President*



**T**he Edgecombe community faced extraordinary challenges in 2008: an acute economic recession, double-digit unemployment, plant layoffs, and employee cutbacks. Every corner of the county has felt the sting of a struggling economy.

In these difficult times, the mission of Edgecombe Community College becomes even more critical. Putting people back to work through curriculum programs and workforce development has never been

more crucial to the health and vitality of our county.

Our primary goal over the last year has been twofold: to develop new programs that are timely and relevant to the needs of local employers and to increase regional awareness of our college.

A new Historic Preservation Trades program is meeting both goals. The new program was established in 2008 through a daylong Historic Preservation Trades School in September.

A student receives a certificate in historic preservation trades at the conclusion of six courses and is ready to enter the workforce. UNC-Greensboro and Edgecombe Community College are the only two North Carolina colleges who currently have a preservation trades program.

This program is already attracting participants from across the state as well as Virginia and South Carolina. Workers who are skilled in preservation-related building trades are in high demand by the preservation industry.

College officials are taking this program to the next level by establishing a two-year curriculum degree program in historic preservation trades. This program should be in place by Fall 2009.

The college's cultural programming has become more regional as well. The Edgecombe Performance Series, for example, was revamped to turn it into a regional entertainment venue. The college targeted headliners who would attract an audience from a broad geographic area.

In February 2008, country music sensation Taylor Swift performed to a record crowd of 1,200 people from across the state and along the Eastern seaboard. Some of those individuals had never heard of Tarboro, North Carolina, until they traveled here for the Taylor Swift concert.

We also stepped up our efforts to provide relevant workforce development training for local industries. Our college provides testing for the N.C. Career Readiness Certificate, which certifies core employability skills required across multiple industries and occupations. To date, we

have supported more than 500 individuals in achieving an N.C. Career Readiness Certificate.

Our staff works hand-in-hand with local industries in providing consulting and training services. In 2008, four industries in collaboration with the college received \$74,000 in productivity enhancement dollars from the N.C. Community College System to train 72 employees. Also in 2008, five companies received \$76,500 in new and expanding industry training dollars from the community college system. Those companies committed to 297 new jobs for Edgecombe County.

These are but two examples of the programs Edgecombe Community College has in place to help meet the needs of local industry. Without the college serving as a training partner, these companies would spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in professional development training.

We are planning for expansion in particular areas, such as health sciences, historic preservation, and distance education. As we look forward with an eye toward economic recovery, we will remain committed to providing Edgecombe residents with training that is relevant and life enhancing. Our programs and services are successful because of the support of our many Edgecombe friends, and we thank you.

Deborah L. Lamm, Ed.D.  
President



# Creating Success

## *through Curriculum Development*



Michelle Cicero of Preservation N.C. leads a demonstration on window restoration during the college's first Preservation Trades School held in September 2008.

### New Program in Historic Preservation Trades Is Unique in N.C.

A one-of-a-kind program in Historic Preservation Trades began at Edgecombe Community College in Fall 2008.

The program has three components:

- ♦ Preservation Trades School, a daylong event in September

- ♦ Continuing education certificate program in historic preservation trades, a six-course program
- ♦ Community Heritage Center

No other community college in the state offers a training program in preservation-related building trades, skills that are in high demand in North Carolina.

"In January, we created an advisory board for our preservation program," says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

"Members include officials from the N.C. Division of Archives and History, Preservation North Carolina, a retired city planner, and local business leaders who are experts in historic preservation. With the assistance of these specialists, we believe we have developed an outstanding program that will help meet the need for a skilled preservation workforce."

The first Preservation Trades School was held September 27, 2008, and drew

statewide interest. About 70 participants came from Wilmington and New Bern, Greensboro and Winston-Salem, and points in between to observe and talk with professionals in the field while they demonstrated their skills in masonry, carpentry, roofing, and window restoration.

Instructors at the daylong event included Reid Thomas, restoration specialist, N.C. State Historic Preservation Office; Michelle Cicero, window restoration specialist, Preservation N.C.; and Jack Peet, Williamsburg master mason.

The Preservation Trades School was a precursor to the college's new continuing education certificate program in historic preservation trades, which began in October 2008. Six continuing education courses are required to complete the program. Each course meets for two weekends on Saturdays and Sundays so that working professionals may attend classes. All of the instructors are experts in their field.

Classes that met in Fall 2008 were Southern Architecture in October and Brick Masonry in November. Southern Architecture had 45 participants and was taught by John Wood, preservation/restoration specialist, N.C. State Preservation Office; Scott Power, regional supervisor, N.C. Office of Archives and History; Nancy Van Dolson, architectural and landscape historian; and Michelle Michael, preservation architectural historian/historic preservation specialist.

Brick Masonry had 30 participants and was taught by Laura Blokker, preservation consultant, Southeast Preservation in Elm City; and Jack Peet, Williamsburg master mason.

"All of our instructors are authorities in their field, the best of the best," says Monika Fleming, program coordinator. "We are fortunate that they are coming to Edgecombe Community College to share their expertise."

Classes in decorative arts, window restoration, roofing, and carpentry/woodworking are planned for Spring 2009 and Summer 2009.

The third component of the Historic Preservation Trades program is the establishment of a Community Heritage Center on ECC's Tarboro campus. The college plans to relocate the Norfleet House (c. 1811) to the campus and restore this structure as a part of training in the program.

The Norfleet House was given to the college by the Town of Tarboro. Once renovated, the building will become a Community Heritage Center to provide resources on the county's history, architectural history, and genealogy. The Heritage Center also will provide ongoing instructional space and a place to display historic artifacts owned by or on loan to the college.

According to Myrick Howard, president of Preservation N.C., in the last ten years in North Carolina, 14,000 jobs have been created in historic preservation with an economic impact of \$1.4 billion in rehab expenditures. He says he sees "firsthand the need for qualified historic restoration specialists."

He adds, "ECC has done a very thorough job in planning its trades training program."

## Online Business Administration Program Added to Curriculum

The Fall 2008 semester opened with a new online business administration degree program for students.

"We are very focused on our student needs, so when we identified the need of the student who was working full time or had family obligations to have a degree option that could be delivered anytime, anywhere, we decided to develop the online business administration degree program," says Dr. Johnica Ellis-Kiser, business administration instructor.

Since the online program began, more than 370 students have taken an online course in business administration.

Three program options are available, a certificate in business leadership, a diploma in business administration, and a degree in business administration. The certificate is a 12-hour program, the diploma takes one year, and the degree requires two years of study.

Seven of the business administration courses are college transfer courses, so students can take the online courses at ECC and the course credit will transfer to a university.

Business administration is the college's second fully online degree program. Health information technology has been a fully online curriculum since 2001.

Overall, distance education at the college continues to thrive. In three years, the number of distance courses has increased by 42% while the number of distance students has increased by 43%.

In Fall 2008, distance courses numbered 114, and 1,138 distance students were enrolled. An average of 15 courses has been developed by faculty each year. Many of these newly developed courses are in areas not traditionally served by online instruction, such as health care.

"The contrast between now and three years ago is dramatic," says Richard Greene, director of distance learning. "We are moving toward streaming video in our distance courses. We videotape our instructors and the video becomes part of their class to enhance the learning process. The instructor actually demonstrates what he or she is explaining. It's very exciting."

## New Course Will Strengthen Reading Skills

In December 2008, ECC began offering a new course for students to improve their reading and comprehension skills.

Called REAP – Reading Excellence Across Programs – the intensive two-week class will be offered each semester. The course is free of charge, including books.

"We want to help our students be more successful," says Johanna Owens, an ECC English instructor. "In 2007-2008, we had approximately 150 students who could have benefitted from REAP."



Members of ECC's Principles of Marketing class helped publicize the college's new REAP course to improve reading skills. Class members designed posters and created a video. From left are instructor Giles Dail and students Chris Cannon, Kristin Smith, Shanta Fields, and Jessica Pettaway. All of the class members are Edgecombe County high school students and took the college class through the college's Dual Enrollment program.





ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm (second from left) leads a tour of the new Cosmetic Arts Building on the Tarboro campus. Also shown are Wick Baker (far left) and Gladys Shelton (third from left), members of the ECC Board of Trustees.

These students placed into reading classes below the developmental course level, and REAP would have provided them an opportunity to improve their reading skills in a short span of time at no charge.

"The purpose of REAP is to help those students who do not place into developmental classes to get them ready for college prep classes and then college classes," explains Dr. Kristi Snuggs, vice president of instruction. "REAP will help those

with poor reading skills get up to speed quickly. It's free of charge because we offer it through our Basic Skills division rather than Curriculum."

"So far, it has been very successful," Dr. Snuggs says, adding that she and her staff are experimenting with varying the class schedule to determine what works best for students.

## New Cosmetic Arts Building Opens in Tarboro

Cosmetic arts has received a facelift at Edgecombe Community College, and the results look terrific.

A new cosmetic arts facility on the Tarboro campus opened in Summer 2008, the final step in an extensive renovation of cosmetic arts on both campuses.

Renovations to the Rocky Mount cosmetic arts building began in 2005 and were completed in 2006. Construction began on the new facility in Tarboro in 2006 and was completed in July 2008.

The new 8,000-square-foot building is situated near the Fleming Building. It includes classroom and lab space for some 90 students.

More than a hundred members of the community attended the Tarboro Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce Business-After-Hours held August 21 to preview the new facility. The event was hosted by the ECC Foundation.

Visitors had high praise for the new facility. Jonathan Felton, chair of the ECC Board of Trustees, said, "This building is going to be a real asset for the college."

Advanced cosmetology student Jaquanda Bradley, one of several students who gave complimentary nail and esthetic services during the event, said the new building will be a major draw for cosmetology and esthetics students. She began the program in January 2007, when cosmetology shared an older building on the Tarboro campus with other programs.

"Now we have our own building, and we don't have to worry that our lab discussions might be heard by other classes. We no longer feel crowded," she said.

The cosmetology program saw an increase in students right away. Before fall semester classes began, nearly 40 students from Edgecombe and surrounding counties had enrolled.

One of the advantages of ECC's cosmetology program is that students can begin the program in the fall, spring, or summer semesters. "We enroll students

year-round,” explains Dr. Kristi Snuggs, vice president of instruction. “Most community colleges admit new students just in the fall.”

In addition to cosmetology, the college offers esthetics, which is the science and art of skin care. Students learn the latest techniques, including facials and microdermabrasion. The new Cosmetic Arts Building contains four state-of-the-art esthetics chairs.

The college’s certificate program in esthetics is the only program of its kind in the Edgecombe area.

## SACS Reaffirmation Process Nears Completion

A final step in the process toward reaffirmation by the accreditation board for institutions of higher education was completed in Fall 2008 when a reaffirmation committee visited campus for four days.

Seven members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), one observer, and one Commission on Colleges representative were on campus September 29 through October 2 for an on-site visit.

SACS is the regional body for the accreditation of higher education in the southern states. Accreditation indicates that an institution maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers.

The on-site visit was part of the college’s 10-year SACS reaffirmation process. Three areas are the focus of reaffirmation: 16 core

requirements, 58 comprehensive standards, and 7 federal requirements.

The first part of the current reaffirmation process, an internal review and development of a compliance certification document, was completed in March 2008. Dr. Alan Stephenson, dean of ECC’s Division of Arts and Sciences, served as chair of the college’s internal reaffirmation team.

The off-site peer review was conducted in May, and the college received a favorable report from this off-site review in June.

The visit in September-October was an on-site peer review. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was a major component of this visit because the program will be a focus of the college for at least the next five years.

The goal of ECC’s QEP is to improve student learning by focusing on reading comprehension, critical reading, and professional development. Enhancing student learning through improving critical reading skills is the college’s way of ensuring students’ success in college and in the workplace.

The Commission on Colleges will not reaffirm ECC’s accreditation until June 2009. Presently, a Commission on Colleges’ team is reviewing the on-site and off-site committee reports before making the recommendation to reaffirm ECC’s accreditation to the entire commission.

The college first received SACS accreditation in 1972, and it was reaffirmed in 1978, 1988, and 1998.

## 2+ Wesleyan Program Offers New Transfer Option

A new partnership between North Carolina Wesleyan College and Edgecombe and Nash community colleges makes transferring to a bachelor’s degree program at Wesleyan a seamless process.

Even better, the partnership makes the cost of attending Wesleyan competitive with the cost of enrolling at one of North Carolina’s state-supported universities.

The 2+ Wesleyan program enables N.C. residents who have completed their two-year associate degrees at Edgecombe or Nash to transfer smoothly into the bachelor’s degree programs at Wesleyan, with costs comparable to or below those at North Carolina state universities.

Gary Sherman, Wesleyan’s vice president of enrollment management, says, “The 2+ Wesleyan program makes Wesleyan a great option for those who may think they have to attend a state university simply because of price. This program really levels the playing field regarding the price tag. Also, federal aid programs can further assist in making bachelor’s degrees affordable.”

“The program will greatly benefit transfer students who prefer to live at home while attending college, as well as those who are unable to commute the long distance to attend a state university,” Sherman explains.

Students may enroll in the 2+ Wesleyan program full- or part-time and may take traditional day classes or adult degree program courses, which are taught in the evening. ECC students also can take Wesleyan classes on the community college campus.

“The 2+ Wesleyan program is an excellent example of how community colleges and four-year institutions can partner to benefit students,” says Dr. Kristi Snuggs, vice president of instruction. “The program gives our students direct access to a bachelor’s degree, which many of them may hesitate to consider because of cost or because they can’t easily travel due to their work or family obligations. This is a great option for our students who want to continue to advance their career and educational goals beyond the two-year degree.”



Aurelia Wallace (left) and Barbara Manning are students in the 2+ Wesleyan program. Wallace earned an associate in arts degree at ECC and is studying elementary education at Wesleyan. Manning holds two associate degrees in business administration and accounting from ECC and is studying business at Wesleyan.



# Creating Success

## *through Global Initiatives*



From left, ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm and Finnish educational leaders Esa Santakallio and Ari Orelma signed an agreement on April 15 that establishes teaching and learning collaborations between the college and several Finnish institutions.

### **ECC and Finnish Educators Sign Agreement**

Edgecombe Community College signed a cooperative agreement in April 2008 with educational leaders from Finland that creates collaborative opportunities between the college and several Finnish educational institutions.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for international goodwill," said ECC Board of Trustees Chair Jonathan Felton.

The delegation of eight Finnish educational leaders visited ECC and other local colleges. The visitors were guests of ECC, N.C. Wesleyan College, and Nash Community College.

Following a reception and dinner on ECC's Tarboro campus on April 15, officials from the Hyvinkaa-Riihimäki Vocational

Adult Education Centre, the Riihimäki Vocational Institution, Hyvinkää Vocational Institutions, cities of Hyvinkää and Riihimäki, and ECC signed an agreement creating opportunities for collaboration and exchange. Projects listed in the agreement are:

- ♦ An exchange of professional development experiences;
- ♦ A collaboration of workforce development training provided to local industries;

- ♦ An exchange of best practices between the Finnish institutions and ECC;
- ♦ An exchange of best practices between the Finnish institutions and the Edgecombe Early College High School.

This gathering marked the third time ECC officials have met with officials from Finland. In March 2007, a delegation from Finland visited Edgecombe and Nash community colleges and N.C. Wesleyan.

In September 2007, ECC executives Dr. Deborah Lamm, Dr. Kristi Snuggs, and J. Lynn Cale traveled to Finland as guests of educational centers in Hyvinkää and Helsinki. Following this visit, the college committed to participating in faculty and student exchanges, to collaborating on academic projects, and to partnering with the adult education center to provide workforce training for local industry.

"The agreement reinforces our efforts to partner with Finland on teaching and learning opportunities for our students and the citizens of Edgecombe," said ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

"This is the second time we have been here, and it won't be the last," observed Ari Orelma, president of the Hyvinkää-Riihimäki Vocational Adult Education Centre.

### **College Group Travels to France**

A group of ECC employees, students, and community members traveled to Paris through the ECC Travel Abroad Program in Fall 2008.

The nine-day trip from October 27



through November 4 included destinations in Paris, Normandy, Mont St. Michel, and Chateaux country.

"This was my first trip to France," says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm. "It is a charming, beautiful country, and I was captivated by the generosity of the French and the scenic countryside. It was the trip of a lifetime."

Tony Rook, chair of human services technology and coordinator of the trip, says, "I emphasize in my classes that Edgecombe County is one little piece of the world. We can learn a great deal from people in other places."

In 2007, participants in the first ECC Travel Abroad trip traveled to Ireland. The next trip is scheduled in 2010, and Italy is the destination.



English instructor Dr. Floyd Ogburn spent 12 days in Summer 2008 on a study trip to Senegal, Africa.

## English Instructor Studies in Africa

ECC English instructor Dr. Floyd Ogburn spent 12 days in Senegal, Africa, in June 2008 through the 2008 Study Visit to Africa, a World View program.

World View is an international program for educators at UNC-Chapel Hill. ECC sponsored Dr. Ogburn's participation in the study visit.

The goal of the trip was to help key educators become leaders for global education by looking beyond the borders of North Carolina and experiencing a culture, a country, and people different from their everyday lives.

Dr. Ogburn says he has always been "deeply interested in West Africa, including Léopold Sédar Senghor, poet and former president of Senegal."

He is incorporating his experiences in designing new content and teaching materials for Humanities 120 – Cultural Studies, which emphasizes African and African-American culture.

Dr. Ogburn also plans to develop teaching materials related to Senegalese education, family, religion, and economy for other English and humanities courses.

"We are excited to have participated for our second year in this international program for educators," says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm. "Last year one of our religion instructors traveled to India through a similar World View study visit. These trips are invaluable learning experiences for our instructors as we strive to make an ECC education more global in perspective."

Through the study visit, educators learned more about the educational system and practices in Africa while visiting schools and colleges and meeting with their foreign counterparts. They also explored significant cultural and historical sites.

Dr. Ogburn joined the ECC faculty in August 2007. Prior to joining ECC, he was

assistant professor of English at Fayetteville State University. He also served previously as a professor of English at the University of Cincinnati.

## Students Collect Dental Supplies for Orphanage

Children in the Dominican Republic may have healthier teeth thanks to human services technology students at ECC.

In Spring 2008, the students collected more than 150 pounds of dental hygiene supplies that were distributed to children at the Orphanage Outreach facility in Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. The drive, called the Global Community Service

Project, was a joint effort with students in the pre-dental club at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The supplies were donated by the ECC community, churches, schools, friends, family, and two Rocky Mount dentists, Dr. Ted Strickland and Dr. James Harrold.

The UNC students collected 1,500 pounds of dental supplies that they distributed during their spring break.

Two UNC students visited ECC's Rocky Mount campus to pick up the donated dental supplies and to thank the ECC students for their participation. "This is a big help and an amazing effort," said Chelsea Marcuard, a UNC-CH student. Marcuard was joined by UNC student Alexis Brown, a Rocky Mount native and a graduate of Northern Nash High School.



Participants in the Global Community Service Project are (from left) UNC student Alexis Brown, ECC human services technology students Selma Staton, Marjorie Harper, Jimmy Morgan, Kimberly Mack, Melissa Heggs, Mary Dancy, Linda Brinson, Gwenetta Themes, and UNC student Chelsea Marcuard. The ECC students collected 150 pounds of dental hygiene supplies that were distributed in Monte Cristi by the UNC students during their spring break.

# Creating Success for Students



Every seat was taken in a radiography class on the first day of classes in Fall 2008. Radiography instructor Priscilla Wells (left) is teaching the class. Enrollment at the college rose 17 percent in one year.

## Student Enrollment Rises Dramatically

**C**lasses are filled at Edgecombe Community College. A total of 2,366 students attended the college in Fall 2008, an increase of 17 percent over Fall 2007's enrollment of 2,017.

Part of the increase can be attributed to stronger student recruitment efforts, say college officials.

"In the spring of 2008, we put into place a more systematic and effective communication flow between the college and prospective students. This initiative included more personal contact by way of letters, phone calls, and Open House events on our campuses," explains ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

"Our student services staff worked diligently to identify and recruit prospective students, and the result is that more students selected Edgecombe Community College as their educational choice in the fall."

A weak economy also contributed to the enrollment increase. Many community colleges across the state experienced similar enrollment increases. Enrollment at Pitt Community College rose 13 percent in Fall

2008, and Wake Tech also increased 13 percent.

"As always, as the economy goes down, our enrollment generally goes up," says Audrey Bailey, spokesperson for the N.C. Community College System (NCCCS).

According to the NCCCS, for every point the unemployment rate rises, enrollment at the state's community colleges increases by 2 percent.

Faced with higher costs for just about everything from gas to groceries, households are cutting back. "I know of several students who had enrolled at four-year schools and decided they just couldn't afford it," says Michael Jordan, vice president of student services. "Community colleges are an educational bargain, and people are finally starting to realize this."

Tuition and fees at ECC for the 2008-2009 academic year are \$708 per semester for a full-time load of 12 hours. At East Carolina University, tuition and fees for 12 hours are \$2,093.

"Students also are choosing to stay closer to home, and they're making smarter choices in order to take a full load every semester. Many of our students work full-time and are unable to take a full load through evening classes. These students are starting to add online classes to their schedule," Jordan adds.

Health sciences programs remain among ECC's most popular programs and are filled to capacity. These programs include:

- CT/MRI
- Health Information Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Transcription



- Nursing
- Radiography
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology

Early childhood education, business, and college transfer programs also are popular.



ECC student Kyle Snow (far right) and guests on campus check out an alternative fuel car during Open House for prospective students in April 2008.

## Open House Events Developed

In an effort to recruit new students to ECC, the Office of Student Services hosted Open House events in 2008.

The first Open House was held Saturday, March 8, on the Rocky Mount campus. Subsequent events were held in April, May, July, and August.

Guests learned about the admissions process and how to obtain financial aid, took a campus tour, and visited with faculty members and current students.

“Our goal in holding Open Houses is to give prospective students an opportunity to learn more about Edgecombe Community College,” says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm. “For students who are finishing high school or for those who need new job skills, we offer programs that are relevant and convenient, including online classes.”

The Open House events were such a success that they have become a permanent program in the college’s Student Enrollment Plan.

## Students Win State Academic Awards

ECC students Crystal Booth and Phyllis Williams may be older than the traditional college student, but they are shining examples of how adult learners can return to the classroom and excel.

The students received the 2008 North Carolina Community College Academic Excellence Award, which is based on academic achievement and service to the college.

Crystal Booth, 35, is a nursing major from Red Oak. She maintains a 3.6 GPA. Phyllis Williams, 69, is working toward an associate in arts degree. She maintains a 3.9 GPA.

Booth is a displaced worker who came to ECC after her company closed her office. She was working as a phlebotomist, and nursing was a natural choice, she says. “I had always wanted to be a nurse, and when the opportunity presented itself, I ran with it.”

The federal Workforce Development Act Displaced Worker Program is funding

her ECC education. The program assists dislocated workers in training and/or employment for re-entering the workforce.

“I don’t qualify for any financial assistance,” Booth explains, “so if it weren’t for the Displaced Worker Program, I would not be in school.”

ECC is meeting her educational needs as well, she says. “Everyone has been extremely nice; it feels like a family here. The instructors and the staff want students to succeed, and they provide plenty of opportunities and resources to help us reach that goal.”

Booth is vice president-service of the ECC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the

college’s student honorary society. She also serves as an ECC Student Ambassador and as the public information officer on the Rocky Mount campus for the Student Government Association.

Phyllis Williams of Sharpsburg returned to the classroom because she didn’t have an opportunity to attend college when she was younger.

“I couldn’t afford it,” she says. “When I was growing up, college cost \$1,000 a year, and that was just too expensive. I got married, had two kids, and was divorced shortly thereafter, so I had my children to raise.”

Williams, who grew up in Indiana,



Students Crystal Booth (left) and Phyllis Williams received the 2008 N.C. Community College Academic Excellence Award, given to students to recognize academic achievement and service to the college.



Ten ECC students were honored for their achievements in November 2008 by ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm during President's Hour. President's Hour is held each semester for selected students who are nominated by faculty and staff. Students must demonstrate academic success, community participation, and leadership. From left are (front) Vice President of Student Services Michael Jordan, Boyd Barker, Steven Baker, Lauren Colbert, Tasheca Dortch, Dr. Lamm, (back) Kim Gaston, Abby Motley, Holly Motley, Kara Norris, Amber Taylor, and Patricia Willis.

moved to Sharpsburg 35 years ago. She worked at Firestone and retired in February 2004. She began taking classes at ECC the following fall. Because she is over 65, her tuition is free, a policy that is standard at all N.C. community colleges.

"I love school, I love to learn, and I love the kids out here," she says. "When I was growing up, there were no community colleges."

Williams serves as secretary of the ECC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and she supports the Student Government Association events. She is participating in a service learning project at the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center in Scotland Neck. She also was chief marshal at graduation in 2007, a distinction based on her academic record.

She says a four-year degree is in the

"back of her mind," but her sights are set on completing her two-year degree first.

"Both of these students are exceptional examples of the potential and possibility for lifelong learning," says Tamara Frank-Pourvady, a Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

Two students from each of the state's 58 community colleges are chosen to receive the Academic Excellence Award each year. Students receive a lapel pin, engraved plaque, and coffee mug.

## Ambassador Program Recognizes Outstanding Students

The ECC Foundation sponsors the Student Ambassador program each year to reward academic distinction.

Student Ambassadors must maintain a 3.25 grade point average. Ambassadors are nominated by the ECC faculty and are interviewed by a screening panel.

These students give campus tours, host campus activities, recruit students, speak to community groups, assist with registration and orientation, welcome groups to the campus, and assist with ECC Foundation activities. For their service, the Foundation provides each ambassador free tuition for the fall semester, a navy blue blazer, an ECC polo shirt, and an Ambassador name badge.

Student Ambassadors for 2008-2009 are Kimery Andrews, College Transfer; Guadalupe Velazquez Cruz, Nursing; Jeffrey Drake, College Transfer; KaShaunda Garrett, Respiratory Therapy; LaShuna Hardy, Respiratory Therapy; Araceli Morales, Early Childhood Education; and Sharon Powell, Early Childhood Education.



# Creating Success in Edgecombe

## Performance Series Features Julianne Hough

The Edgecombe Performance Series was revamped in 2008-2009 to offer entertainment that would appeal to a regional audience. The college targeted six headline acts that would attract an audience from across North Carolina.

Country music rising star Julianne Hough attracted a near-capacity crowd at Keihin Auditorium.

Other performers were:

- Blues guitar legend Buddy Guy
- Pianist Emile Pandolfi
- Family entertainers Susana and Timmy Abell
- Doo Wop Live!, featuring Cornell Gunter's Coasters, the Marvelettes, and the Platters

The Performance Series is in its fourth season. In its 2006-2007 season, the Performance Series hosted 10 shows. In 2007-2008, the number was reduced to eight shows.

"We are booking fewer shows with more well-known entertainers to appeal to a larger number of individuals," explains ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

The goal is to generate enough revenue through ticket sales that the Performance Series becomes self-sustaining.

## New Programs Created in Continuing Education

The Division of Continuing Education at ECC promotes lifelong learning by offering a wide range of programs and services.

In 2008, the most exciting development in Continuing Education was a new certificate program in historic preservation trades, a six-course program. (See related article on page 2.)

Each course in the program meets for two weekends on Saturdays and Sundays so that working professionals may attend classes. Classes are offered in Southern architecture, brick masonry, decorative arts, window restoration, roofing, and carpentry.

Ten new courses are being developed and will be included as options for those who are enrolled in the certificate program.

No other community college in the state offers a program in preservation-related building trades.

Following a year of program planning and building renovations, a new Continuing Education Center opened in Fall 2008 in the Fountain Building on the Tarboro campus. Classes are held in the new center.

New classes include pastels, calligraphy, landscaping, furniture making, upholstery, traditional wood finishing and faux bois, and shag dancing.

During the course of a year, the college offers about 1,300 Continuing Education classes and serves 8,900 individuals. These classes include occupational extension classes such as nursing assistant and policy and fire training; human resources development programs; basic skills programs, including GED and adult high school; and the Small Business Center.

## College Strengthens Local Workforce

Workforce development training for local industries is an important component of the mission of ECC.

In 2008, four industries in collaboration with the college received \$74,000 in Productivity Enhancement dollars (formerly Focused Industry Training funds) from the community college system to train 72 employees.

Companies benefitting are Berry Plastics, Eastern Carolina Manufacturing Company, Kanban Logistics, Keihin Carolina System Technology, and Moorecraft Reels.

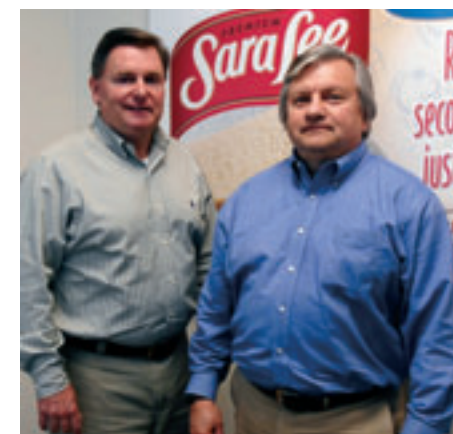
Also in 2008, five companies received \$76,500 in New and Expanding Industry Training dollars from the community college system. Those companies committed to 297 new jobs for Edgecombe County.

Companies benefitting are ASC, Blue Hawaiian, Eastern Carolina Manufacturing Company, and Spongex.

In addition, college staff teach occupational extension courses for local industry. For example, 28 Sara Lee employees and 28 Berry Plastics employees completed leadership skills

training, 63 KCST employees completed WorkKeys skills training, 52 KCST employees completed training in Analytic Troubleshooting, and 37 QVC employees improved their Microsoft Office computer skills.

College staff also design curriculum programs for local industries so employees can advance within the company. Both Consolidated Diesel and Keihin Carolina System Technology employees are enrolled in an associate degree program.



Paul Clark (left), plant manager at Sara Lee, says that ECC is a "very good resource that is very close by." Shown with Clark is Dr. Randi Dikeman, director of business and industry services at the college. ECC has awarded more than 200 Career Readiness Certificates to Sara Lee employees and has provided Six Sigma and leadership skills training for the plant. Customized training in several other areas is planned for the near future. "You have to invest in your people," Clark adds.

# Creating Success

## *through Leadership*



Members of the executive team are (l-r) Dr. Kristi Snuggs, vice president of instruction; Michael Jordan, vice president of student services; Charlie Harrell, vice president of administrative services; Dr. Deborah Lamm, president, and J. Lynn Cale, associate vice president of instruction.



Serving on the Board of Trustees are (seated, l-r) Helen Collins, Bernice Pitt, Gladys Shelton, Nancy Williams, (standing) James Taylor, James Long, Jerry Spruell, Jonathan Felton, Gloria Wiggins-Hicks, and Wick Baker. Shown inset are Jean Bailey (left) and Jessie Jones.

### Keihin Chair Awarded

**J**.H. Koonce, chair of criminal justice, was named recipient of the 2008-2009 Keihin Endowed Faculty Chair in August 2008.

"I can't tell you how much this means to me, and I can't tell you how much this place means to me," he said.

The chair was endowed by Keihin Carolina System Technology through a

\$100,000 gift in May 2007. It rewards excellence in teaching.

He received both a B.S. degree in corrections and social work and a master's degree in public administration in the political science department from East Carolina University.

Koonce has been an instructor at ECC since 1980 and chair of criminal justice since 1986. He has served on numerous committees, including advisor of the

Gamma Beta Phi honor society from 1986 to 1994. He was chair of the logistics committee for the SACS reaffirmation on-site peer review in 2008.

Koonce was selected by a committee of ECC administrators, faculty, and staff, and KCST officials from a pool of five nominees who submitted a performance portfolio, a philosophy of teaching, and an essay. Other nominees were instructors Kim Bell, Carole Mehle, Bruce Panneton, and Cathy

Stephenson.

As the Keihin chair holder, he will receive \$2,500 and a chair with an engraved brass nameplate. Koonce is the second Keihin Chair holder at the college. The 2007 recipient was Monika Fleming, chair of English/humanities.



# Creating Success

## *through the ECC Foundation*



ECC Foundation Board members include (front, from left) Gladys Shelton, Karen Andrus, Dr. Deborah Lamm, Jean Bailey, Bernice Pitt, (middle) James Marrow, Ruth Cherry, David Farris, J. Vines Cobb, Earl Marshall, (back) Charlie Harrell, Joseph Spiers, J.H. Koonce, William Davis, Lee Hall, Wick Baker, and Ferrell Rollins.

Established in 1982, the ECC Foundation is a non-profit organization set up to receive donations that provide educational support for the college. Local, state, and federal dollars meet the college's basic needs but do not provide adequate funds to fulfill all of the needs, such as financial aid, capital expenses, equipment, special projects, and instructional support. Since its founding, the Foundation has focused primarily on meeting the financial needs of students. In 2008-2009, the organization awarded \$100,000 in student scholarships. More than 100 students benefit annually from these funds. The Foundation also provides mini-grants to faculty and staff for upgrading or enhancing programs and professional skills, and sponsors the Keihin Endowed Faculty Chair Award, the Excellence in Teaching Award, the Staff Award, and the Student Ambassador program. We are indebted to all of the donors for their loyal commitment and generous gifts to the college and the ECC Foundation.

### Endowed Scholarships

ACT•1 – The John & Elretha Bryant Family  
Alltel Communications  
Mike Alford  
Berry Anderson Family Memorial  
Guy E. and Alice A. Barnes Memorial  
Robert E. Barnhill Sr. Memorial  
Baker Mabrey Bass Jr. Memorial  
Francis G. Blackwell Memorial  
JoAnn Brown  
Archie R. Burnette Family Memorial  
Johnnena Poulos Cannon Memorial  
Robert "Bob" Cole Memorial  
Stanley Leon Daughtridge Memorial  
Edgecombe County Veterans Memorial  
Ronald G. Ellis Jr.  
Emily "Mimi" Havens Edmondson Memorial  
Cindy Gupton Fiore Memorial  
Dr. Thomas S. Fleming  
Judge George M. Fountain Jr. Memorial  
Nina W. Fountain  
Dr. Hartwell H. Fuller  
Annie Louise Gaynor Memorial  
Vivian Godwin Memorial  
Jonathan "Jack" Havens Memorial  
Heritage Hospital  
Dr. Geraldine Jordan  
Carolyn Weeks Kalamajka Memorial  
Major Linwood T. Lewis Sr. Memorial  
Gladys C. Matthewson Memorial  
Lacey & Grace McBryde  
Charles B. McIntyre Jr. Memorial  
Norman T. Parker Jr.  
General Henry Hugh Shelton  
Vivian Patterson Smith Memorial  
Carl W. Stephens Jr. Memorial  
Mary T. Strickland Memorial  
Tarboro Lions Club  
Tarboro Student Aid Association  
Eddie Lee Walker Memorial  
Sylvia "Red" Baker York Memorial



A new Donor Appreciation Endowment Kiosk was unveiled in May 2008. The kiosk is a "permanent display that appropriately recognizes donors," ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm says. The kiosk lists current donors to the Foundation, endowments, and current recipients of the college's Excellence in Teaching Award, Staff Award, and the Keihin Endowed Faculty Chair. The kiosk is on permanent display in the Fleming Building. It was funded in part through a generous gift from Keihin Carolina System Technology. Above from left are Maxie Coker, ECC Foundation Board member; Charlie Harrell, ECC vice president of administrative services; Wick Baker, member of the ECC Board of Trustees and the ECC Foundation Board; and Karen Andrus, executive director of the ECC Foundation.

## Ronald Ellis Scholarship Endowed

Earl Roberson of Conetoe established the Ronald G. Ellis Jr. Endowed Scholarship at ECC in October 2008.

Roberson, who worked at ECC for 19 years, chose to honor Ellis through an endowed scholarship because, he says, "Ronnie does more thoughtful acts of kindness for others, particularly the elderly, than any other person I know."

Ellis retired in 1992 after 30 years of service at N.C. State University. He worked with the Cooperative Extension Service, formerly known as the Agricultural Extension Service, for 25 years. His final five years at N.C. State were as director of benefits and assistant director of human resources.

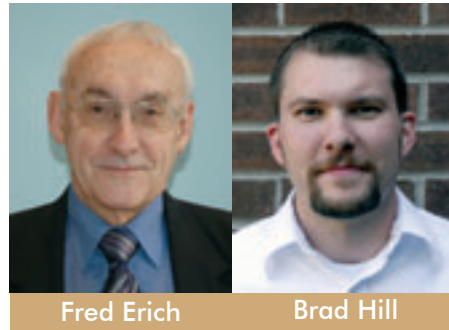
Roberson hopes the scholarship will help a student "achieve his educational goals, become a more well-rounded person, and be a more informed citizen," he says.

Roberson was director of literacy programs at ECC, including GED and adult high school programs. Previously, he was an elementary school principal in Raleigh; and prior to that, he taught 4th grade in Indiana.

"Mr. Roberson's generous gift is a testament to his strong belief in the power of education to transform people's lives," says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm. "We are grateful that he has chosen to honor Mr. Ellis through an endowed scholarship."

Ellis says he hopes the scholarship named in his honor will "assist students in developing skills that will enable them to

receive good jobs in our community and ultimately, make Edgecombe County a better place to live."



## Employees Honored at Commencement

An instructor and a staff member were honored by the ECC Foundation during commencement exercises in May 2008 for their distinguished service to the college.

The ECC Foundation presented Fred Erich with the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award. An instructor of developmental mathematics, Erich has taught at the college for 14 years.

"While many teachers are happy if a student can simply manipulate numbers to come up with correct answers, he insists that students understand what they are doing," said Karen Andrus, executive director of the ECC Foundation, in making the presentation.

Brad Hill, PC/LAN technician, received the 2008 Staff Award. An ECC employee for just five years, Hill has streamlined PC and network processes and learned new skills to save the college on outsourcing repairs.

Fellow employees said of Hill: "I have never seen a better computer tech and troubleshooter." "He takes his job very seriously and strives to do his best."

The ECC Foundation honored Erich and Hill with a \$250 check and a plaque.

## Foundation Leader Dies

Nina Fountain, a charter member of the ECC Foundation Board of Directors and its president for 22 years, passed away on Thanksgiving Day 2008. She was 94. Fountain was the first female member of the ECC Board of Trustees.

"She was a very gentle but persuasive leader," says Jean Bailey, current Foundation board president. "I felt very humbled when I followed her because she was great in that role. The Foundation is what it is today because of her marvelous leadership."

During the college's 40th anniversary celebration in 2007, a wing on the Thomas S. Fleming Building – the Nina W. Fountain Center for Continuing Education – was named in her honor. Fountain, who was inducted into the Twin County Hall of Fame in 2006, was a Scotland Neck native who taught school in Edgecombe County for many years.

If you would like to honor Mrs. Fountain, please remember the Nina W. Fountain Scholarship, which was established in 2000 and is awarded to students in any curriculum. A donation may be made to the ECC Foundation in her memory.

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Dorothy Spruill, SGA President





ECC Foundation scholarships were awarded to about 100 students during an awards ceremony in November 2008. Shown above are Nija James (left), recipient of the Johnnena Poulos Cannon Memorial Endowed Scholarship, and Parker Ellen Cannon, Johnnena Cannon's daughter. James, a Rocky Mount resident, is a student in the associate in science/pre-engineering program. Johnnena Cannon, who taught math at ECC for 16 years and also served as department chair, died at age 45 from cancer. The Cannon scholarship was endowed in 2004 by family, friends, and coworkers. Pictured at the podium is Jean Bailey, president of the ECC Foundation Board of Directors.

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Consolidated Diesel Company  
Keihin Carolina System Technology  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Poulos

### Grand Circle (\$1,000 – \$4,999)

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Mrs. Kathy Webb  
Mr. C. J. Webb  
Mrs. Kathryn W. Weeks

Mrs. Rhonda H. Wells  
Ms. Priscilla Wells  
Mr. Joey Whitaker  
Mr. Dalton W. Whitehurst  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Whitley  
Mr. Ronnie Whitley  
Mr. Freddy Whitley  
Mr. Billy S. Wilder  
Mrs. Bonner Wilder  
Ms. Judith Williams  
Ms. Sandi Williams  
Mr. Wayne Wilson  
Mrs. Lesley Wirt  
Ms. Rose Y. Wooten  
Mr. James Wooten, III  
Mr. Jimmy Wooten  
Ms. Carolyn M. Worden  
Mr. Arnold Worsley  
Mr. Harold C. Wright  
Mr. Danny Yates  
Mr. Michael P. Yelverton

### Memorial Gifts

Mr. Mike Alford  
Mr. Thomas Good Allgood Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Barnes Jr.  
Dr. Julian Brantley  
Mrs. Johnnena Poulos Cannon  
Mr. Edward Cherry  
Mr. William G. Clark, III  
Mrs. Minnie Lou Creech  
Mrs. Teresa Day  
Mr. Jason Erich  
Mr. Roy Everette  
Mrs. Nina W. Fountain  
Mrs. Vivan Godwin  
Mrs. Margaret Lawrence Gulley  
Mrs. Carolyn Weeks Kalmajka  
Mr. Paul "Pete" Mehle Sr.  
Mr. Robert E. Poulos  
Mr. Eddie Walker  
Ms. Donna Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Weeks  
Mr. Lindsey R. Whitehurst  
Sgt. David Blake Williams

### Honor Gifts

Mr. Mike Alford  
Mrs. Nina W. Fountain  
Ms. Barbara H. Boney  
Ms. Mary S. Barrett  
Ms. Brittany Phillips  
Mrs. Norma Erich  
Ms. Crystal Worsley  
Mrs. Deborah Parrisher  
Ms. Ruth Mondak  
Mrs. Teresa Muse  
Ms. Julie Jelks  
Mr. Derrick Flood  
Ms. Yvonne Murphy  
Mrs. Sandra Sanderson  
Dr. Kristi Snuggs  
Dr. Deborah Lamm  
Mr. Fred Erich  
Ms. Susan G. Boyette  
Ms. Lee G. Currin



## ECC Financial Information



### Operating Budget

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

#### Edgecombe Community College

##### Revenue

State	\$14,461,283
County	1,230,000
Federal	4,141,601
Institutional	1,899,954
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,732,838</b>

##### Expenditures

Academic Support	\$1,647,547
Instruction	8,858,102
Public Service	11,722
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,261,769
Student Services	1,210,012
Plant Operation	1,100,100
General Institutional Support	2,278,610
Financial Aid	4,761,686
Capital Outlay	585,290
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$21,714,838</b>



### Financial Statement

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

#### Edgecombe Community College Foundation

##### Revenue

Contributions	\$165,998
Interest & Investment Income	50,859
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$216,857</b>

##### Expenditures

Grants/Scholarships/other programs	\$105,225
Fundraisers	48,317
Operating Expenses	25,720
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$179,262</b>

Increase (decrease) in Fund Balance \$37,595

**Total Net Assets June 30, 2008 \$1,258,251**

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Edgecombe Community College is  
an equal opportunity institution.

## **EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Tarboro campus**

2009 West Wilson Street  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
(252) 823-5166

### **Rocky Mount campus**

225 Tarboro Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27801  
(252) 446-0436

**[www.edgecombe.edu](http://www.edgecombe.edu)**